

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nipple shield device for removing leukocytes from breast milk comprising:

a nipple shield having a base and a protrusion that is shaped to conform to a mammalian female areola and nipple, wherein said protrusion has one or more holes permitting intake of breast milk by an infant; and

a filter attached to the nipple shield at a location permitting removal of leukocytes from breast milk.

2. The nipple shield device according to claim 1, wherein said filter is attached inside of said protrusion.

3. The nipple shield device according to claim 1, wherein said filter is a leukocyte reduction filter.

4. The nipple shield device according to claim 1, wherein said filter is attached at a plurality of different locations along the protrusion to permit serial filtering of breast milk.

5. The nipple shield device according to claim 1, wherein said nipple shield is made of a flexible material.

6. The nipple shield device according to claim 5, wherein the flexible material is silicone or rubber.

7. A nipple device for removing leukocytes from breast milk comprising:

a nipple having a base and a protrusion, wherein said protrusion has one or more holes permitting intake of breast milk by an infant; and

a filter attached to the nipple at a location permitting removal of leukocytes from breast milk.

8. The nipple device according to claim 7, wherein said filter is attached inside of said protrusion.

9. The nipple device according to claim 7, wherein said filter is a leukocyte reduction filter.

10. The nipple device according to claim 7, wherein said filter is attached at a plurality of different locations along the protrusion to permit serial filtering of breast milk.

11. The nipple device according to claim 7, wherein said nipple is made of a flexible material.

12. The nipple device according to claim 11, wherein the flexible material is silicone or rubber.

13. A nursing bottle on to which the nipple device according to claim 7 is fitted.

14. A method of removing leukocytes from breast milk comprising: filtering breast milk with a filter that removes leukocytes.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said filter is part of a nipple shield device for breastfeeding an infant, said nipple shield device comprising:

a nipple shield having a base and a protrusion that is shaped to conform to a mammalian female areola and nipple, wherein said protrusion has one or more holes permitting intake of breast milk by an infant, and

a filter attached to the nipple shield at a location permitting removal of leukocytes from breast milk.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said filter is attached inside of said protrusion.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said filter is a leukocyte reduction filter.

18. The method according to claim 15, wherein said filter is attached at a plurality of different locations along the protrusion to permit serial filtering of breast milk.

19. The method according to claim 15, wherein said nipple shield is made of a flexible material.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the flexible material is silicone or rubber.

21. The method according to claim 14, wherein said filter is part of a nipple device that is fitted onto a nursing bottle, said nipple device comprising:
a nipple having a base and a protrusion, wherein said protrusion has one or more holes permitting intake of breast milk by an infant, and
a filter attached to the nipple at a location permitting removal of leukocytes from breast milk.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said filter is attached inside of said protrusion.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein said filter is a leukocyte reduction filter.

24. The method according to claim 21, wherein said filter is attached at a plurality of different locations along the protrusion to permit serial filtering of breast milk.

25. The method according to claim 21, wherein said nipple is made of a flexible material.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the flexible material is silicone or rubber.